

Listing of Claims:

The claims are not being amended by way of this Reply. Nevertheless, this listing of claims is provided for reference.

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for enabling electronic communications by a user having multiple accounts hosted by a single communications service provider that represents each of the multiple accounts of the user hosted by the communications service provider with a corresponding screen name, the method comprising:

displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of other screen names, each of the other screen names representing another account that is hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding to another user with whom the user communicates electronically, wherein:

each individual list of other screen names corresponds to a different account of the user hosted by the single communications service provider, is separated from the other lists of screen names, contiguously lists a set of screen names representing other accounts that are hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding to other users with whom the user communicates using the account to which the list corresponds, and is configurable to be arranged into one or more sub-lists of screen names, each sub-list including one or more of the screen names from the set of screen names, and

an individual screen name representing an individual account hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding to an individual user with whom the user communicates is listed in at least two of the multiple lists of other screen names;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the multiple accounts of the user hosted by the single communications service provider, of a particular source account from which to initiate an electronic communication;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of screen names corresponding to the particular source account selected by the user and included in the graphical user interface, of a particular screen name to whom to send the electronic communication;

sending the electronic communication to the particular screen name; and

identifying the electronic communication sent to the particular screen name as having been sent from the particular source account selected by the user.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 wherein the multiple accounts of the user are linked using linking logic based on a remote server.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 16 further comprising offering the user a list of potential accounts to which a link from the multiple accounts may be created, wherein the list of potential accounts is created based on relationships between the potential accounts and the multiple accounts known to exist within the remote server.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising receiving a response to the electronic communication from the particular screen name and addressed to the particular source account.

19. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising:  
logging on to the single communications service using a first account of the user that differs from the particular source account; and  
in response to logging on to the single communications service using the first account of the user, automatically being logged on to the single communications service for the particular source account.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising displaying indications of the several accounts of the user in the single graphical user interface.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 20 further comprising displaying the lists of other screen names associated with each of the multiple accounts of the user in the single graphical user interface.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising, responsive to an addition of a new screen name to the list for one of the multiple accounts of the user, adding the new screen name to the lists for the other of the multiple accounts of the user.

23. (Previously Presented) A graphical user interface for facilitating communications by a user having multiple accounts hosted by a single instant messaging service provider that represents each of the multiple accounts of the user hosted by the instant messaging service provider with a corresponding screen name, the graphical user interface comprising one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged to enable:

a display portion configured to make perceivable two or more instant messaging contact lists, wherein each instant messaging contacts list is associated with one of the multiple accounts of the user, is separated from the other instant messaging contacts lists, and includes a contiguous listing of other screen names, each of the other screen names representing another account that is hosted by the single instant messaging service provider; and

one or more visual indicators that are configured to display the current logon status of the other screen names included in the instant messaging contacts lists associated with the multiple accounts of the user; and

wherein at least a first screen name from a first instant messaging contacts list associated with a first account of the user hosted by the single instant messaging service provider and represented by a first screen name is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user, and

wherein at least a second screen name from a second instant messaging contacts list associated with a second account of the user hosted by the single instant messaging service

provider and represented by a second screen name also is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user, and

wherein a third screen name representing an individual account hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding to an individual user with whom the user communicates is listed in both the first instant messaging contacts list and the second instant messaging contacts list.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of additional of the multiple accounts of the user in response to a sign on of one of the multiple accounts of the user.

26. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of additional of the multiple accounts of the user in response to a sign on of any one of the multiple accounts of the user.

27. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for each of the multiple accounts of the user.

28. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for one of the multiple accounts of the user, wherein the preferences are applied globally to the other accounts of the user.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of screen names with whom the user communicates electronically comprises displaying a single graphical user interface that is configured to:

enable the user to select a particular list corresponding to a particular one of the multiple accounts of the user; and

in response to a selection by the user of the particular list corresponding to the particular account, display the particular list that corresponds to the particular account selected by the user.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates electronically comprises concurrently displaying lists corresponding to each of at least two accounts of the user.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for linking multiple accounts of a user hosted by a single communications service provider that represents each of the accounts of the user with a unique screen name, the method comprising:

maintaining, for a user who has multiple accounts that are hosted by the single communications service provider for use in communicating electronically with other users, a first contacts list corresponding to a first account of the user, the first contacts list including screen names that each represent another account hosted by the single communications service provider and correspond to another user, and the first contacts list enabling the user to communicate electronically with the other users corresponding to the screen names included within the first contacts list;

maintaining, for the user, a second contacts list corresponding to a second account of the user, the second contacts list being separate from the first contacts list and including additional screen names that each represent an additional account hosted by the single communications service provider and correspond to an additional user, and the second contacts list enabling the user to communicate electronically with the additional users corresponding to the additional screen names included within the second contacts list, wherein a particular screen name representing a particular account hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding a particular user is listed in both the first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user and the second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user;

authenticating the first account of the user;

authenticating the second account of the user; and  
creating an association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user, wherein the association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first account of the user and the second account of the user in response to authentication of both the first account of the user and the second account of the user, the single graphical user interface being configured to display the first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user separately from the second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user such that:

the first contacts list includes a contiguous listing of the screen names representing the other accounts hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding to the other users and the second contacts list includes a contiguous listing of the screen names representing the additional accounts hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding to the additional users, and

the single graphical user interface enables the user to interact with the first contacts list to communicate with the other users using the first account of the user and to interact with the second contacts list to communicate with the additional users using the second account of the user.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein:  
authenticating the first account includes using a first password to authenticate the first account; and

authenticating the second account includes using a second password to authenticate the second account.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are the same.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are different.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein:  
authenticating the first account includes using a SecureID to authenticate the first  
account; and  
authenticating the second account includes using a SecureID to authenticate the second  
account.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association  
between the first account and the second account includes using a one-way link configuration to  
create the association between the first account and the second account.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association  
between the first account and the second account includes using a bi-directional-link  
configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association  
between the first account and the second account includes using a star-link configuration to  
create the association between the first account and the second account.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association  
between the first account and the second account includes using a mesh-link configuration to  
create the association between the first account and the second account.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 further comprising setting  
preferences for the first account, wherein setting the preferences for the first account also sets the  
preferences for the second account.

42. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 further comprising:  
setting first preferences for the first account; and

setting second preferences for the second account.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein the single communications service enables linking multiple accounts hosted by the single communications service so as to enable presence of one account to be reflected based on a login of another account of the multiple accounts.

45. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for enabling instant messaging by a user who has at least two different instant messaging accounts hosted by a single instant messaging service provider that represents the two different instant messaging accounts with corresponding screen names, the method comprising:

displaying, to a user who has both a first instant messaging account and a second instant messaging account that are hosted by a single instant messaging service provider, a single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes:

- a first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user and that includes a first contiguous listing of instant messaging screen names that the user has selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging contacts list, each of the screen names included in the first contiguous listing representing an instant messaging account also hosted by the single instant messaging service provider, and

- a second instant messaging contacts list that is separated from the first instant messaging participant list, that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, and that includes a second contiguous listing of instant messaging screen names that the user has selected for inclusion in the second instant messaging contacts list, each of the screen names included in the second contiguous listing representing an instant messaging account also hosted by the single instant messaging service provider, wherein a particular instant messaging screen name representing a particular instant messaging



account hosted by the single instant messaging service provider is listed in both the first instant messaging contacts list and the second instant messaging contacts list;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of the particular instant messaging screen name from the first instant messaging contacts list;

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the particular instant messaging screen name from the first instant messaging contacts list, enabling the user to compose a first instant message to the particular instant messaging screen name;

based on the selection of the particular instant messaging screen name from the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user, sending the first instant message composed by the user to the particular instant messaging screen name in a manner that identifies the first instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of the particular instant messaging screen name from the second instant messaging contacts list;

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the particular instant messaging screen name from the second instant messaging contacts list, enabling the user to compose a second instant message to the particular instant messaging screen name; and

based on the selection of the particular instant messaging screen name from the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, sending the second instant message composed by the user to the particular instant messaging screen name in a manner that identifies the second instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising collapsing the first instant messaging contacts list within the instant messaging graphical user interface such that the contiguous listing of the instant messaging screen names that the user selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging contacts list is not visible within the instant messaging graphical user interface after collapsing the first instant messaging contacts list.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein displaying the single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes both the first instant messaging contacts list and the second instant messaging contacts list includes concurrently displaying both the contiguous listing of the instant messaging screen names that the user selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging contacts list and the contiguous listing of the instant messaging screen names that the user selected for inclusion in the second instant messaging contacts list within the single instant messaging graphical user interface on a single display screen.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein:  
the communications service is an instant messaging service;  
the multiple accounts of the user are instant messaging accounts with the instant messaging service;

displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates electronically includes displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates via instant messaging;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the multiple accounts of the user, of a particular source account from which to initiate an electronic communication includes using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several instant messaging accounts of the user, of a particular source instant messaging account from which to initiate an instant message;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of screen names corresponding to the particular source account selected by the user, of a particular screen name to whom to send the electronic communication includes using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of screen names corresponding to the particular source instant messaging

account selected by the user, of a particular screen name to whom to send the instant message;  
and

sending the electronic communication to the particular screen name such that the electronic communication is identified to the particular screen name as being sent from the particular source account selected by the user includes sending the instant message to the particular screen name such that the instant message is identified to the particular screen name as being sent from the particular source instant messaging account selected by the user.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein:  
the communications service is an instant messaging service;  
the first account of the user is a first instant messaging account of the user hosted by the instant messaging service;  
the second account of the user is a second instant messaging account of the user hosted by the instant messaging service;  
maintaining, for the user a first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user, includes maintaining, for the user, a first instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the first instant messaging account of the user, the first instant messaging contacts list including one or more instant messaging screen names corresponding to other users and enabling the user to communicate via instant messaging with the other users;  
maintaining, for the user, a second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user, includes maintaining, for the user, a second instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the second instant messaging account of the user, the second instant messaging contacts list being separate from the first instant messaging contacts list, including one or more additional instant messaging screen names associated with one or more additional users, and enabling the user to communicate via instant messaging with the additional users;  
authenticating the first account of the user includes authenticating the first instant messaging account of the user;  
authenticating the second account of the user includes authenticating the first instant messaging account of the user;

creating an association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user includes creating an association between the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user; and

the association between the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user in response to authentication of both the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user, the single graphical user interface being configured to display the first instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the first instant messaging account of the user separately from the second instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the second instant messaging account of the user such that:

the first instant messaging contacts list includes a contiguous listing of the screen names corresponding to the other users and the second contacts list includes a contiguous listing of the screen names corresponding to the additional users, and

the single graphical user interface enables the user to interact with the first instant messaging contacts list to communicate with the other users via instant messaging using the first instant messaging account of the user and to interact with the second instant messaging contacts list to communicate with the additional users via instant messaging using the second instant messaging account of the user.

52. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method comprising:  
displaying a single graphical user interface that includes:

a first group label that corresponds to a first electronic messaging account of a user hosted by a particular electronic messaging service provider,

a second group label that corresponds to a second electronic messaging account of the user also hosted by the particular electronic messaging service provider,

a first contiguous listing of multiple messaging screen names, each of the screen names included in the first contiguous listing representing another electronic messaging account also hosted by the particular electronic messaging service provider and corresponding to another user with whom the user communicates using the first

electronic messaging account of the user, the first contiguous listing being oriented in a position corresponding to the first group label and configured to reflect on-line presence information for at least some of the messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user,

a second contiguous listing of multiple messaging screen names, each of the screen names included in the second contiguous listing representing another electronic messaging account also hosted by the particular electronic messaging service provider and corresponding to another user with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user, the second contiguous listing being separated from the first contiguous listing of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user, oriented in a position corresponding to the second group label, and configured to reflect on-line presence information for at least some of the messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user, wherein:

a particular messaging screen name representing a particular electronic messaging account hosted by the particular electronic messaging service provider and corresponding to a particular user is listed in both the first contiguous listing of multiple messaging screen names and the second contiguous listing of multiple messaging screen names,

the first group label is selectable to inspire visual display or obfuscation of the first contiguous listing of messaging screen names with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user, and

the second group label is selectable to inspire visual display or obfuscation of the second contiguous listing of messaging screen names with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user of the particular messaging screen name from the first contiguous listing of messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user;

in response to receiving the indication of the selection by the user of the particular messaging screen name, enabling the user to compose and send to the particular messaging screen name an electronic message that is identified as originating from the first electronic messaging account of the user;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user of the particular messaging contact from the second contiguous listing of messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user; and

in response to receiving the indication of the selection by the user of the particular messaging contact, enabling the user to compose and send to the particular messaging contact an electronic message that is identified as originating from the second electronic messaging account of the user.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface that includes a first contiguous listing of messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user and a second contiguous listing of multiple messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user includes displaying a single graphical user interface that includes:

a first contiguous listing of messaging screen names that is arranged into multiple contiguous sub-listings of messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user, each of which is associated with a different identifiable label; and

a second contiguous listing of messaging screen names that is arranged into multiple contiguous sub-listings of messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user, each of which is associated with a different identifiable label.